

The Honorable Kymberly Marcos Pine, Chair
Committee on Zoning and Housing
Honolulu City Council
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Statement of
Eric Masutomi, Chair
Waikiki Transportation Stakeholders Oversight Committee
Before the
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU,
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON ZONING AND HOUSING
Thursday, June 29, 2017

RE: Bills 63 and 64 Relating to Special Improvement Districts and the Establishment of the
Waikiki Transportation Management Special Improvement District No. 4

Chair Pine and Members of the Committee.

I am Eric Masutomi, testifying on behalf of the Waikiki Transportation Stakeholders Oversight Committee (WTSOC). WTSOC is an advisory group representing a wide array of Waikiki interests including residents, business, hotels, freight and passenger providers. WTSOC was established in 2010 to assist and advise the City on policies and initiatives directly impacting transportation and related planning issues in Waikiki, including the planned Waikiki Circulator/Connector. This collaboration has already resulted in the successful implementation of a number of initiatives addressing long-standing problems in Waikiki (i.e., installation of all-way pedestrian crossings; Royal Hawaiian Avenue on-street loading and related traffic improvements; etc.).

It is in this spirit that WTSOC expresses its strong support for these bills, which provide for the creation of a Waikiki Transportation Management District (TMD) SID. The TMD concept has been recommended for Waikiki by at least three major City studies: the Waikiki Regional Circulator Study, the Honolulu Urban Core Parking Master Plan, and the Waikiki Livable Community Project. These plans and studies recognize that Waikiki is dramatically unique from any other district on the island in terms of the scale, nature, and complexity of its internal traffic and transportation demands. And, all agree that effective coordination and management of such activities in this dense, vibrant environment is difficult and challenging, but could be significantly improved through the creation of a Traffic Management District.

Waikiki is a wonderful asset and a special place, but it does require diligence on the parts of both the private and public sectors to work in tandem to maintain its "magic." These bills support such a partnership. I urge your favorable consideration of these measures.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.